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FOR ARA/AND, HA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, CO

SUBJECT: REPORT ON U.P. SENATOR ALCANTARA'S VISIT
TO U.S.; ACTION REQUEST PARA 4

1. (C) CALI ARTIST PEDRO ALCANTARA, CURRENTLY A PATRIOTIC UNION (UP) SENATOR AND FORMERLY CHIEF OF THE COLOMBIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, VISITED THE U.S. FROM MARCH 24 TO 29, ACCORDING TO COMMUNIST WEEKLY "VOZ", WHO CARRIED THE STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE: "A NAKED VISION OF THE DIRTY WAR."

2. (U) THE PAPER NOTES THAT HE WAS "LISTENED TO WITH RECEPTIVITY" IN CONGRESS, STATING THAT HE MET WITH SENATORS HEFLIN AND DECONCINI, REPRESENTATIVES RANGEL AND MORRISON, AND STAFFERS OF REPRESENTATIVE CROCKET, MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, AND STAFFERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, VIC JOHNSON, NANCY AGRIS AND BARRY SKLAR. THE ARTICLE ALSO MENTIONS THAT ALCANTARA MET WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS LIKE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, CULTURAL CENTERS, UNIVERSITIES, ARTISTIC ENTITIES, PRESS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION. THE PAPER RAN A PHOTO OF ALCANTARA AND HIS WIFE POSING WITH ARCHBISHOP JOHN QUENN OF SAN FRANCISCO AND QUENN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR GEORGE WESOLEK.

3. (U) THE STORY ADDS THAT ALCANTARA MET WITH THE "COLOMBIAN COMMITTEE OF HUMAN RIGHTS" IN THE U.S. HE PRESENTED THIS COMMITTEE WITH A REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN COLOMBIA, AND ACTIVITIES BEING TAKEN TO PRESERVE THOSE RIGHTS.

4. (C) ACTION REQUEST: ALCANTARA AND THE U.P. TAKE THE LINE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE SOLEY THE FAULT OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND HAS PROFFERED THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT AT ALL OPPORTUNITIES. EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE ON ALCANTARA'S VISIT AND WHAT IMPRESSION HE MADE ON HIS INTERLOCUTORS.

GILLESPIE
END OF MESSAGE

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